

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric bending endoscope comprising:
a bending portion arranged to an inserting portion;
~~a bending driving unit which bends the bending portion, the bending driving~~
~~unit including a motor which generates driving force for bending the bending portion,~~
a first unit which holds ~~[[the]]~~ a motor, ~~and a second unit which includes a~~
~~driving force transmitting member that transmits the~~ generates ~~driving force of the motor to~~
~~bend~~ for bending the bending portion ~~by the driving force of the motor; and~~
a buffering member which connects to the first unit at least one ~~to an outer~~
~~member~~ of the inserting portion, an operating portion for operating the electric bending
endoscope and a connecting cord that is connected to a control device to controlling a
~~connecting code, and a switch arranged to the electric bending endoscope, the buffering~~
~~member absorbing external force~~ applied to at least one of the inserting portion, the operating
portion and the connecting cord ~~generated during the operation of the electric bending~~
~~endoscope.~~

2-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 1,
wherein, in an operation lever arranged to the operating portion for operating the bending
driving unit, an angle is formed between the center axis of the inserting portion in the electric
bending endoscope and the center axis of the operation lever at the neutral position thereof,
and the angle is in a range of about 120° to 150° ~~(135° ± 15°)~~,

an inclined angle of the operation lever is $\pm 30^\circ$ from the center of the operation lever, and

the inclined center position of the operation lever is arranged in front of the operating portion, with respect to the center position of the inserting portion in the electric bending endoscope.

9. (Original) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 8, wherein the operation lever is arranged such that an angle is formed between the center axis of the operation lever at the neutral position thereof and the operating directions of an operating switch including at least an air and water supply button and a suction button, and the angle is 30° or more.

10. (Currently Amended) An electric bending endoscope comprising bending driving unit which bends a bending portion arranged to an edge side of an inserting portion thereof,

wherein the bending driving unit comprises at least two detachable units of:

a frame unit which holds a motor as a driving source for bending the bending portion; and

a bending and stretch mechanism unit, separable from the frame unit, which has a driving force transmitting member for bending the bending portion by using rotation driving force from the motor, and

wherein an outer member of the inserting portion, a universal cord `[[code]]`, and necessary switches for operating the operations of the electric bending endoscope are connected to the frame unit via an mediating member.

11. (Currently Amended) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 10, wherein the frame unit comprises:

an outer frame; and

an inner frame which holds the motor and which is made of a hard member with high intensity from the outer frame, and

wherein the outer member of the inserting portion, the universal cord ~~[[code]]~~, and the switches are connected to the inner frame via the mediating member.

12. (Currently Amended) An electric bending endoscope comprising:

a bending portion arranged to an inserting portion; ~~and~~

~~bending driving means which bends the bending portion,~~

~~wherein the bending driving means comprises:~~

~~driving force generating means which generates driving force for bending the bending portion;~~

~~a first unit which holds a motor that generates [[the]] driving force generating means for bending the bending portion; and~~

~~a connecting member which connects to the unit at least one of the inserting portion, an operating portion for operating the electric bending endoscope and a connecting cord that is connected to a control device for controlling the electric bending endoscope, the connecting member absorbing external force applied to at least one of the inserting portion, the operating portion and the connecting cord.~~

~~a second unit which has a driving force transmitting member which transmits the driving force of the driving force generating means and bends the bending portion by the driving force of the driving force generating means, and~~

~~wherein the first unit is connected to an outer member of the inserting portion,
a connecting cord, and operating means arranged to the electric bending endoscope so as to
absorb external force generated during the operation of the electric bending endoscope.~~

13. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 1, wherein the unit comprises a frame unit as a hard member for holding the motor.

14. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 13, wherein the connecting member is connected to the frame unit.

15. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 1, wherein the operating portion is provided with a switch for operating the electric bending endoscope.

16. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 15, wherein the unit comprises an inner frame for holding the motor and an outer frame for holding the inner frame.

17. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 16, wherein the inserting portion, the connecting cord and the switch arranged to the operating portion are connected to the inner frame via the connecting member.

18. (New) An electric bending endoscope comprising:
a bending portion arranged to an inserting portion;
a first unit which holds a motor that generates driving force for bending the bending portion;
a buffering member which absorbs external force applied to at least one of the inserting portion, an operating portion for operating the electric bending endoscope and a

connecting cord that is connected to a control device for controlling the electric bending endoscope; and

a second unit which can be separated from the first unit and has a driving force transmitting member for transmitting the driving force of the motor to the bending portion.

19. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 18, wherein the first unit comprises an inner frame for holding the motor and an outer frame for holding the inner frame.

20. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 19, further comprising a fixing member which fixes the inner frame of the first unit and a main frame arranged to the second unit.

21. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 20, wherein the inner frame and the main frame of the second unit are fixed by using the fixing member with a positioning tool which positions the inner frame and the main frame in the second unit in a three-axial direction.

22. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 18, wherein a wheel is arranged to a driving shaft of the driving force transmitting member of the second unit, and a rotating shaft of the wheel is arranged in front of the operating portion on a side cross-section of the operating portion in the electric bending endoscope, with respect to a central axis of the inserting portion.

23. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 18, further comprising an operation lever arranged to the operating portion for operating the bending

driving unit, wherein an angle is formed between a center axis of the inserting portion in the electric bending endoscope and the center axis of the operation lever at the neutral position thereof, and the angle is in a range of about 120° to 150°,

an inclined angle of the operation lever is $\pm 30^\circ$ from the center of the operation lever, and

the inclined center position of the operation lever is arranged in front of the operating portion, with respect to the center axis of the inserting portion in the electric bending endoscope.

24. (New) The electric bending endoscope according to Claim 23, wherein the operation lever is arranged such that an angle is formed between the center axis of the operation lever at the neutral position thereof and the operating direction of an operating switch including at least an air and water supply button and a suction button, and the angle is 30° or more.